



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities

DIVISION OF RESEARCH PROGRAMS

**FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS AT  
INDEPENDENT RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS**

**EVALUATION CRITERIA  
August 2014**

1. *Humanities significance*: How important to the advancement of the humanities is the fellowship program for which funding is requested?
2. *Resources, facilities, and assistance*: Are fellows likely to pursue their research more successfully because of the research collections, facilities, services, and other resources provided by the applicant institution? How effectively does the institution promote intellectual exchange? How effectively does it administer its fellowship program?
3. *Fairness of selection*: Is the fellowship selection process expert and objective? Has the institution chosen highly qualified and impartial selection committee members, who reflect an appropriate disciplinary and regional diversity? Does the institution avoid conflicts of interest (or the appearance of conflicts) in establishing the selection committee and choosing the fellows? Does the process, as described, ensure that the best possible candidates are selected?
4. *Performance*: How strong is the institution's previous record in offering fellowships? Have former fellows been productive? Have the scholarly contributions resulting from their FPIRI fellowships been of value to scholars and general audiences in the humanities?
5. *Applicant pool, publicity, and budget*: Is the applicant pool appropriate to the size of the program? How effective are the publicity and outreach for the fellowship competition? Does the application make a persuasive case for the amount of NEH support requested for fellowships?

Program guidelines available at

<http://www.neh.gov/grants/research/fellowship-programs-independent-research-institutions>